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URBAN    DISTRICT    COUNCIL.

ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1940.

R.T.E. NAISMITH, M.B., B.S.





COLNE VALLEY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
LINTHWAITE.

Gentlemen,

Once again the report is for a war year and under the circumstances an abbreviated one is required. This is just as well because I am sure that if the multitudinous duties and varied activities which have been undertaken by the staff were recorded a tome of huge proportions would be the result.

As I stated last year although the tables of all statistics have been compiled they are not included but are available for the time when we hope to write a comprehensive report covering the years of disturbance.

The reception of children both unaccompanied and also with their parent has been a large and complicated task made all the more difficult by the fact that so many soldiers wives and families as well as private arrangement evacuees came into the district and occupied billets. The finding of accommodation has been a heart-breaking task from many reasons. In this undertaking I must offer my thanks to all my staff for their wholehearted support and to all the volunteers who in many ways helped us.

As I have said at Council meetings during the year public health work has had to be put on one side in many instances but two facts have helped us and they are first, the very small number of complaints which came in to be attended to and secondly, the small number of infectious diseases needing attention.

Again I offer my thanks to the Health Committee for their continued support and my appreciation of the team work of my staff in tackling so successfully the many new problems which confronted us during the year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R.T.E. Naismith.

Although no comments are made relating to the above figures yet for comparison I am tabulating the deaths in the main groups as set out in the Registrar-General's Short List.







# GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These remain as for last year.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) .. .. .	16,052
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1940 .. .. .	22,170
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books .. .. .	7,608
Rateable value and the sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£115,526 - £446.

## LIVE BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate .. .. .	236	132	104
Illegitimate .. .. .	8	3	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .			11.00

## STILL BIRTHS.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate .. .. .	15	5	10
Illegitimate .. .. .	1	1	-
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. .			61.54

## DEATHS.

	Total	M.	F.
	368	194	174
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population .. .. .			16.59

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) -

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No.29 Puerperal sepsis .. .. .	1	3.84
No.30 Other puerperal causes .. .. .	1	3.84
Total .. .. .	2	7.68

## DEATH RATE IN INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All infants per 1,000 live births .. .. .	61.22
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .. .. .	54.85
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .. .. .	250.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .. .. .	46
Deaths from Measles(all ages) .. .. .	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .. .. .	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .. .. .	1

Although no comments are made relating to the above figures yet for comparison I am tabulating the deaths in the main groups as set out in the Registrar-General's Short List.







<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>(Last Year)</u>
Diabetes	5	4	9	10
Cerebral Haemorrhage	23	22	50	21
Heart Diseases	55	49	104	109
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	5	13	12
Bronchitis	10	5	15	10
Pneumonia	-	3	3	10
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	-	1	-
Measles	-	1	1	-
Diphtheria	1	-	1	-
Influenza	2	1	3	4
Cancer	20	26	46	47
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	3	7	11
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	-	5	5

### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There are only 15 deaths in children under one year of age and this gives us a very much better figure per 1,000 live births namely 61.22 against that of 50 for the country as a whole, and is the lowest it has been since 1933.

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER. There were 26 cases, 14 males and 12 females; 8 were under school age, 13 of school age and 5 over school age.

DIPHTHERIA There were 14 cases, 6 males and 8 females; 6 were under school age, 5 of school age and 3 over school age.

ERYSIPELAS. 14 cases were reported - 3 males and 11 females.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. 1 case reported.

WHOOPIING COUGH. There were 53 cases, 30 males and 23 females.

MEASLES. 683 cases were reported; 327 males and 356 females. 253 cases under 5 years, 288 cases 5-10 years, 57 cases 10-15 years, 80 cases 15-35 years, and 5 cases over 35 years. This was a severe attack spread over the whole of the district, rising to its peak and dying out again in the first six months of the year.

PNEUMONIA. There were 23 cases, 13 males and 10 females.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER. 2 cases were reported, 1 male and 1 female.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. There was 1 case, a male.

TUBERCULOSIS. There were 15 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 11 males and 4 females and 11 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 7 males and 4 females, while the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were 7 - 4 males and 3 females and from non-pulmonary tuberculosis 5 males.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Very little change in the general position has occurred during the year. Thirteen samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, of which 10 proved satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory. In regard to the latter, in one case an alternative supply was brought into use until the trouble could be remedied, and in the other two cases a piped service of satisfactory quality has since been provided. The percentages of supply are as follows:- Huddersfield Corporation 56.23, Earl Dartmouth 11.85, Private supplies 15.88, giving a total of 83.96 of houses with a laid on supply. The balance representing 16.04 of the houses have to carry in water from nearby wells and springs.



Diabetes	8	4	8
Cerebral Hemorrhage	28	22	28
Heart Disease	28	28	28
Other Circulatory Diseases	8	8	8
Phonitis	10	8	10
Pharyngitis	-	8	-
Diphtheria (under 5 years)	1	-	1
Measles	-	1	-
Rubella	1	-	1
Infuenza	2	1	2
Cancer	20	20	20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	4
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	-	8

THE WHITE MORTALITY.

There are only 15 deaths in children under one year of age and this gives us a very much better figure per 1,000 live births than in the last year of 20 for the country as a whole, and the lowest it has been since 1922.

PREVALENCE OF ALL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 28 cases of measles in females; 8 were under school age, 12 of school age and 8 over school age.

There were 14 cases of scarlet fever in females; 6 were under school age, 8 of school age and 8 over school age.

There were 12 cases of diphtheria in females; 1 was under school age, 10 of school age and 1 over school age.

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There were 10 cases of infantile tuberculosis; 1 was under 5 years, 10 cases 5-15 years, 27 cases 15-25 years, 10 cases 25-35 years, and 1 case over 35 years. This was a very small number of cases of the disease, taking into account the fact that in the last six months of the year there were 10 cases, 12 males and 12 females.

There were 1 case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis; 1 was under 5 years, 1 case 5-15 years, 1 case 15-25 years, 1 case 25-35 years, and 1 case over 35 years. This was a very small number of cases of the disease, taking into account the fact that in the last six months of the year there were 10 cases, 12 males and 12 females.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE MAIN DISEASES.

Very little change in the general position has occurred during the year. Thirteen samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, of which 10 proved satisfactory and 3 unsatisfactory. In regard to the latter, in one case an alternative supply was brought into use until the trouble could be remedied, and in the other two cases the trouble was remedied. The balance representing 10.04 of the number was 10.04.



### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extension was carried out during the year.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Nothing to report.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Tables showing the Ward position are omitted but have been prepared and filed. Thirty four privies and tub closets have been replaced by waterclosets, whilst 14 additional waterclosets have been provided for existing properties. Thirty seven waterclosets were provided for new houses erected during the year, thus giving a total of 83 waterclosets added during the year. Thirty nine grants in aid of £3 each were paid. The number of conveniences serving the district at the end of the year was 1080 privies, 497 tub closets, 4749 waterclosets and 71 waste waterclosets.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Activities under this heading have been carried out to the best of our ability in view of the depletion of staffs and the various additional duties requiring attention including the collection of salvage. Statistics are not included but filed away for reference.

### SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

#### NUISANCES.

The number of nuisances in hand at the end of 1939 was 52, and during the year under review 127 new nuisances were inspected and recorded making a total of 179 for abatement. Of this number 156 have been abated, leaving 23 in hand at the end of the year. A summary of the nuisances abated shows that 59 were from defective drainage, 33 from insanitary privies, 7 from defective waterclosets, 8 defects in sewers, 2 premises in such a state as to be a nuisance, 1 offensive accumulation, 32 in connection with water supplies, 15 arising in factories, and 8 from various causes.

Only one statutory notice was issued and this was complied with, as also were 10 statutory notices outstanding at the end of the previous year. Fifteen informal notices were also issued and complied with, the remainder being dealt with by correspondence and interviews.

#### FACTORIES.

Four power factories have been removed from the register, 3 having been demolished and one put to other use. This leaves 155 with mechanical power and 38 without mechanical power. One outstanding requirement in regard to escape in case of fire has been complied with. Several cases of lack of artificial lighting to sanitary conveniences have been remedied. No breach of the provisions regarding limewashing has been reported, and the majority of the factories are now on the water carriage system, the exceptions remaining being due to lack of a sewer within reasonable distance.







### BAKEHOUSES.

The total number of bakehouses in the district is 21, of which 14 are "power factories" and 7 "non power" factories. The demands on time for various additional war time work have limited inspection to one visit to each bakehouse but it is pleasing to be able to state that the premises are being maintained in a satisfactory condition. There are no underground bakehouses.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Ten observations were made in the early part of the year and two cases of breach of the Byelaw were noted and warnings issued of statutory proceedings in the event of a further breach. All further action under this heading was however suspended by the requirement of the Ministry of Home Security's circular asking industrial establishments to produce more smoke. The Council are members of the West Riding Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and, I feel sure, will welcome the time when active measures can be resumed to attain their objective.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are now only two businesses under this heading, one soap boiler and one gut scraper. One tripe boiling business ceased to operate during the year, and, if re-established after the war will be required to submit plans for new premises and plant.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The position here is similar to last year. There are 88 registered cowkeepers. One extra licence was issued for the production of Accredited Milk bringing the total to 10. There are 129 cowsheds in the district and owing to additional duties it was only possible to make one visit to each. The average number of cows kept is 850. The structural conditions on the whole are good, and owing to the war, alterations to defective shedshave been limited.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT SUPPLY.

There is one public abattoir in the district and 11 private slaughterhouses, 10 of which are registered and 1 licensed, and of these, 4 are of an unsatisfactory nature. Under the Meat Control, slaughtering for this area is carried out at the Public Abattoir Huddersfield, and the Public Abattoir, Slaithwaite and the private slaughterhouses at Brook Lane, Golcar and Warehouse Hill, Marsden are used for distribution centres. All occasional slaughtering of pigs under licence from the Food Control Officer is carried out at the above mentioned slaughterhouses.







HOUSING.

During the year 110 houses were inspected under the Housing Act, 1936. The owners of 72 houses were requested to carry out the necessary repairs. Of this number, 48 houses were repaired and arrangements made with the owners to carry out repairs to the remaining 24 houses as soon as possible.

The owners of 5 houses have commenced the reconditioning of the houses after a survey had been made and the defects notified to the owners.

No Closing or Demolition Orders were made during the year.

The Council is now completing the erection of 26 houses, which were approved in 1939, and some houses will be ready for occupation at an early date.











